GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

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AGRICULTURAL GROWTH
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of growth in the agricultural sector during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the anticipated growth rate during 2007-2008; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure a higher growth rate in the farm sector in order to push up overall growth in the coming years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): According to the data compiled by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the growth rate (at constant 1999-2000 prices) of agriculture and allied sectors for the last three years is given in the table below:

Year	Growth rate (%) in agriculture & allied sectors
2004-05	0.0
2005-06	6.0
2006-07	2.7

(b): The CSO has not released the estimates of GDP growth rate for the year 2007-08. However, according to the Quarterly Estimates of GDP released for the first quarter (April-June) of 2007-08, the growth rate of GDP of agriculture and allied sectors at constant (1999-2000) prices is estimated at 3.8 percent.

(c): The National Development Council (NDC) in its 53 rd meeting held on 29th May, 2007 reaffirmed its commitment to achieve 4 per cent annual growth in the agricultural sector during the Eleventh Plan and resolved that agricultural development strategies must be reoriented to meet the needs of farmers and urged the Central and State Governments to evolve a strategy to rejuvenate agriculture. Towards improving the growth in the agriculture sector, Government has initiated, inter-alia, the following:

Launching of National Food Security Mission (NFSM) with an outlay of Rs. 4,880 crore for the Eleventh Plan period. It aims to add additional 10 million tonnes of rice, 8 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of pulses by the end of the Eleventh Plan.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), a State Plan Scheme, with an outlay of Rs. 25,000 crore aims at achieving 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan period, to ensure a holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.

The newly created National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) would assist States in planning for rainfed areas.

Providing additional resources for irrigation.

Strategic focus on the national agriculture research effort.